

Message Text

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ACTION IO-11

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7106

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AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE IAEA VIENNA 1268

PASS IO/SCT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, PARM, SF

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICA AND ENRICHMENT PLANT SAFEGUARDS

REF: (A) 75 IAEA VIENNA 8214, (B) 75 IAEA VIENNA 9263

(C) 75 STATE 247832 (D) STATE 16748

1. DURING GENERAL PRE-BOARD DISCUSSION WITH MISSION, SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR VON SHIRNDING RAISED QUESTION OF IAEA SAFEGUARDS ON URANIUM ENRICHMENT PLANTS. VON SHIRNDING AND AMB. TAPE REVIEWED EXCHANGES ON SUBJECT (REFS A AND B).

2. VON SHIRNDING SUMMARIZED LETTER HE HAS RECEIVED FROM SOUTH AFRICAN AEB PRESIDENT ROUX, AS FOLLOWS: US-PREPARED SUMMARY OF STATUS OF ACCESS QUESTIONS WAS VERY HELPFUL. HOWEVER, ROUX NOW NEEDS MORE DETAILED TECHNICAL INFORMATION ON HOW SAFEGUARDS WOULD ACTUALLY BE APPLIED. DUE TO POLITICAL CONSTRAINTS, HE CANNOT APPROACH IAEA, AS SUGGESTED IN PAST EXCHANGES WITH US MISSION. THEREFORE, SOUTH AFRICA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE FURTHER, MORE DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH US EXPERTS.

3. TAPE NOTED THAT SOME QUESTIONS RELATED TO
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SAFEGUARDS AT ENRICHMENT PLANT ARE NOT SETTLED AND
EMPHASIZED THAT US COULD NOT SPEAK FOR IAEA, OR IN

ANY WAY COMMIT IT TO ANY PARTICULAR POSITIONS. WHAT THE US COULD DO WOULD BE TO PROVIDE DETAIL ON US THINKING AND ADVICE US HAS GIVEN TO IAEA, AND DISCUSS IMPLICATION OF TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTS DEVELOPED BY US. MISOFF SAID US COULD REVIEW PAPERS OF THZ US WORKING GROUP ON ENRICHMENT PLANT SAFEGUARDS, AND FORWARD TO SOUTH AFRICA ANY THAT APPEAR USEFUL AS PREPARATION FOR DISCUSSION. (WE NOTE FROM REF C THWT SOME PAPERS HAVE BEEN PROVIDED.) AMB. TAPE REITERATED U.S. WILLINGNESS TO PARTICIPATE IN EXPERT MEETING, IN S.A. OR U.S.

4. VON SHIRNDING WILL CONVEY POINTS IN PARA 3 TO ROUX. HE SAID HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER ROUX HAD IN MIND DISCUSSIONS IN SOUTH AFRICA OR ELSEWHERE, BUT FELT THAT DISCUSSION OF US IDEAS, TECHNIQUES AND INSTRUMENTATION, ETC., WOULD BE WELCOMED BY SOUTH AFRICA.

5. RE RESOLUTION OF SAFEGUARDS POLICY ISSUES RELATED TO ENRICHMENT PLANT SAFEGUARDS, US DISCUSSIONS WITH IAEA AND WITH OTHER STATES PURSUANT TO REF D WOULD APPEAR TO BE PROPER VEHICLE. WE WILL REPORT SEPTEL STATUS OF THAT EFFORT. TAPE

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Message Attributes

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